

## Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: MOBUTU'S NOVEMBER 6  
MEETING WITH MUGABE

FOR SCHAUFLELE FROM WISNER

1. I MET N'BANDA, MOBUTU'S LIAISON MAN WITH THE RHODESIA CONFERENCE, ON NOVEMBER 12. N'BANDA SAID THAT MOBUTU HAD BEEN UNIMPRESSED WITH MUGABE DURING THEIR NOV 6 MEETING IN SAVIGNY. HE FOUND DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION THAT MUGABE SKILLFULLY ADVANCED RHETORICAL ARGUMENTS BUT WAS INCAPABLE OF ANALYZING SERIOUS LONG-TERM PROBLEMS. MUGABE APPEARS TO BE DEPENDENT ON HIS ADVISOR MUKUDZEI MUDZI.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE DEBATE OVER THE INDEPENDENCE DATE ISSUE, MOBUTU FEELS THAT THE REAL QUESTION BEFORE THE CONFERENCE IS THE TRANSFER OF POWER AND NOT THE INDEPENDENCE DATE. HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THE BRITISH ARE TRYING TO DEVELOP A COMPROMISE FORMULA WHICH WILL SAVE AFRICAN FACE AND DIFFUSE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE QUESTION.

3. MOBUTU PLANS TO MEET EACH OF THE NATIONALISTS BEFORE HE RETURNS TO KINSHASA EARLY NEXT WEEK. N'BANDA PROMISED TO GIVE ME FULL REPORTS OF THESE MEETINGS.

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THE PRESIDENT WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLORE WAYS TO BRING

THE MODERATES TOGETHER AND WILL TRY TO ASSESS MUGABE'S MOTIVES AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH HE CONTROLS HIS DELEGATION.

4. THE REPORT OF HIS NOVEMBER 6 MEETING WITH MUGABE IS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED MR. MUGABE BECAUSE THE PRESS AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL CIRCLES WERE PAYING A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION TO HIM. THIS IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT MUGABE IS SURROUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY SPECIALISTS IN PROGAGANDA AS WAS THE CASE WITH NETO.

TO PUT MUGABE AT EASE, THE PRESIDENT EXPLAINED HE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED THE THREE OTHER ZIMBABWEAN LEADERS AND THAT HE WISHED TO RECEIVE THE FOURTH. HE HAD HEARD A GREAT DEAL ABOUT MUGABE IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND WANTED TO MAKE HIS ACQUAINTANCE WHILE HE, THE PRESIDENT, WAS STAYING IN SWITZERLAND. THE MEETING OFFERED EACH ONE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME BETTER ACQUAINTED.

THE WORDS OF THE PRESIDENT GREATLY PLEASED MUGABE, WHO IMMEDIATELY CONFIDED IN THE PRESIDENT THAT BEFORE THEIR ARRIVAL IN GENEVA, ALL ZIMBABWEAN LEADERS HAD MADE AN EFFORT TO ALIGN THEMSELVES WITH A VIEW TO FORMING A COMMON FRONT. BUT BECAUSE OF THEIR DIFFERENCES, THIS EFFORT HAD FAILED.

AS A RESULT, IN MAPUTO, MUGABE AND NKOMO DECIDED TO FORM A PATRIOTIC FRONT. MUGABE NOTED THAT THIS HAD BEEN DONE DESPITE RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COLLABORATORS. HE PROMISED THAT HE AND NKOMO WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO UNITY THEIR ARMIES. MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE HAVE NO ARMED FORCES. THE UNIFICATION OF THE TOW ARMIES WOULD PERMIT NKOMO AND MUGABE TO CONTROL THE SITUATION. NEVERTHELESS, MUGABE SAID, THE UNIFICATION COULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT DIFFICULTIES.

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WE (ZAIRE) CONCLUDED FROM THE MEETING THAT MUGABE WISHES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NKOMO IN ORDER TO PENETRATE THE INTERIOR OF ZIMBABWE AND INSTALL HIMSELF THERE. WE ALSO NOTICED THAT MUGABE, BY HIS LANGUAGE, IS COMPLETELY ALIGNED WITH THE COMMUNIST CAUSE. IT IS EASY TO SEE THAT HE HAS BEEN GIVEN CAREFUL IDEOLOGICAL PREPARATION BY THE LEADERS IN MAPUTO.

WE HAVE ALSO OBSERVED THAT MUGABE HAS AS HIS SPECIAL MISSION THE TAMING OF NKOMO. MUGABE SEEMS TO LIKE BISHOP MUZOREWA, WHOM HE CONSIDERS TO BE A MODERATE MAN, BUT HE THINKS PERSONALLY HE WILL NOT SUCCEED IN CONVINCING MUZOREWA.

AS FOR SITHOLE, THE LEADER OF THE OTHER FACTION OF ZANU, THERE IS NO QUESTION OF AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN HIM AND MUGABE. THE SOLUTION TO THEIR DIFFERENCES IS A QUESTION OF LIFE AND DEATH.

MUGABE WAS CLEARLY CONSTRAINED BY NKOMO IN MENTIONING HIS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS TO THE PRESIDENT. HE, HOWEVER, INFORMED THE PRESIDENT THAT HE COULD NOT CARRY OUT DECISIVE ACTION WITHOUT THE AID OF ZAIRE. MUGABE REQUESTED IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE, FOR HIS DELEGATION IN GENEVA IS SUFFERING FROM FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. HE NOTED, IN THIS REGARD, THAT HE HAD LEFT THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL TO LIVE IN THE ROYAL HOTEL BECAUSE OF HIS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. IN ADDITION, HE ASKED THE PRESIDENT IF HE COULD VISIT THE PRESIDENT IN KINSHASA AND EXPLAIN HIS PROBLEMS IN GREATER DETAIL AND SPELL OUT HIS REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE.

THE PRESIDENT ACCEPTED THE LATTER REQUEST AND GAVE MUGABE \$12,500 TO HELP HIM WITH THE STAY OF HIS DELEGATION IN GENEVA."ABRAMS

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